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Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/001,958	KOBAYASHI, YUSUKE	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Ryan Hsu	3714	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 2/16/07.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-44.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |
|---|--|

DETAILED ACTION

Terminal Disclaimer

The terminal disclaimer filed on 2/16/2007 disclaiming the terminal portion of any patent granted on this application which would extend beyond the expiration date of prior patent US 6,840,837 has been reviewed and is accepted. The terminal disclaimer has been recorded.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-44 are allowed.

The closest prior art of Nakagawa and Sutoki, teach a gaming machine comprising: a traveling field, on which platen dots are provided; a plurality of miniature members; and a plurality of self-propelled members, which are provided on the traveling field (*see Sutoki, Fig. 8 and the related description thereof*). Nakagawa and Sutoki also teach that each of the self-propelled members including a base body; a first yoke and a second yoke and a motor to control the movement around the track for each of the plurality of members. However, the prior art of record is silent with regard to the relationship involved between a shaft coupled with a motor and the controller operation to create a rotational movement between the self-propelled member and the miniature member. As indicated by the applicant, Nakagawa's controller does not incorporate the use of a shaft which controls the motor such that a rotated angle of the shaft so that a relative angle between the front face of the base body of the self-propelled member and a front face of the associated one of the miniature members is varied in accordance with the propelling direction of the base body or self-propelled member. Instead Nakagawa's controller only incorporates the miniature members to follow the movement of the fixed magnets of the

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base device. Thus Nakagawa's implementation is unable to allow for rotational movement of the miniature member while the self-propelled member is in a stationary position. The applicant's invention differs by using a motor with a shaft coupled to one of the associated one of the miniature members is able to use a controller to rotate the angel of the shaft so that a relative angle between the front face of the "base body and a front face of the associated one of the miniature members is varied, therefore allowing movement of the base body and the self-propelled member.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communication from the examiner should be direct to Ryan Hsu whose telephone number is (571)-272-7148. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Robert P Olszewski can be reached at (571)-272-6788.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 1-866-217-9197 (toll-free).


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A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Scott E. Jones". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "S" and "J".

SCOTT JONES
PRIMARY EXAMINER

March 1, 2007